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the Staunton bar, also notable for ability, Daniel Sheffey, Peyton, Chapman Johnson and Michie, he was an Episcopal churchman. He served in the constitutional convention of 1829-'30, and at different times, with much efficiency, in the legislature of his State; but, leader as he was of public opinion, he had no liking for political life. As an orator, from his boyhood to his death, he held the palm for eloquence, and held it easily in Virginia. There was an irresistible charm about him as a speaker. As a lawyer, his close friend and legal associate, Hon. A. H. H. Stuart, said this of him: "To great vigor of intellect and scholarly acquirements he united quick and keen perception, a rich and poetic imagination and tender sensibilities, bringing him always into close sympathy with the suffering and oppressed. Hence, as an advocate he was not only a powerful reasoner, but a polished rhetorician, and a ready and adroit debater, master of every weapon useful in assault or defense. His efforts at the bar often displayed a wonderful versatility of talent. While instructing and convincing his audience by his logic, he would delight them by brilliant sallies of wit, keen repartee, pungent sarcasm, scorching denunciation of fraud and injustice, splendid declamation and melting pathos." To which Mr. Stuart added this testimony: "As citizen, neighbor, friend, husband, father, his character was without spot or blemish."

Staunton, Va.

THOMAS D. RANSON.

JUDGE BALDWIN'S RULES.

Before looking for law, meditate upon what it ought to be.

In forming opinions, trust not first impressions, but revolve the matter in your mind, examining both sides carefully.

Be not satisfied until your conviction is strong and clear.

Distrust any conclusion attained by an elaborate or refined process of reasoning, or a nice balancing of authority.

In examining the books, look first to the elementary writers, and form an opinion if you can upon them, turning to cases to remove doubts still remaining, or for citation or comment.

Prepare no more long opinions.

In drawing opinions, seize the strong points and content yourself with a few of the most cogent arguments, such as to produce conviction by their intrinsic force.

Be certain of correctness, both in matter and manner.

Never from the bench, or in conference or conversation, throw out a crude impression.

Avoid all eccentricities of opinion, conduct or deportment.

Adopt no opinions of others without examination.

Avoid disputing authority, but elude what is unreasonable.

Examine every question upon principle.

Indulge not in sarcasms or ridicule.

Strive not for ascendancy, but be content with conscious superiority or equality or inferiority.

Be tender in all respects of the feelings of others.

Adapt your suggestions to the capacity of others and their modes of thinking.

Trust not lightly legal principles, reasoning or authorities.

Preserve perfect self-possession.

- Be firm in all things without parade or pretension.
- Be neat and cleanly in your person and apparel.
- Never yield to the impulse of the moment.
- Study to be comprehensive, brief and forcible.
- Attempt not to convert others to your opinions and doctrines.
- Be not hasty or positive or peremptory in expressing your opinions.
- Never surrender to others your own deliberate judgment.
- Do not stickle for small matters, or dispute without necessity.
- Be polite and indulgent to counsel.
- Yield nothing to importunity or pertinacity.
- Make no censorious or disparaging remarks about judges or counsel.
- Avoid party prejudices and acrimony.
- Listen to others attentively and respectfully.
- Evince no impatience or surprise at the opinions or arguments or ignorance of others.
- Cultivate a knowledge of human nature.
- Converse about yourself as little as practicable.
- Treat not others according to their deserts, but from a regard to what is due to yourself.
- Acquire a knowledge of sensible subjects, practical matters and the business of life.
- Direct conversation so as to acquire information.
- Be not suspicious or captious.
- Be dignified in manners and deportment, but modest and unassuming.
- Examine and bear in mind the persons, names and residence of strangers.
- In traveling attend to topography, geography, soil, products, cultivation and distances.
- Penetrate silently into the secret motives of men.
- Let justice and sound policy be your judicial guides.
- Impress upon your mind the facts of cases.
- Examine well for yourself before conferring.
- Seek to let others appear to advantage.
- Seek distinction only by official merits.
- Aim not at original thoughts, but adopt the wisdom of others.
- Seek not what is best, but what is best attainable.
- Have secret and full confidence in your own deliberate judgment.
- Be modest and conciliatory with your brethren, and seek to guide them gently when confident you are right.
- Make no formal defense of your habits and opinions.
- Never yield to any temptation of gratifying vanity or seeking applause.